

Marsh Notes

Finding Vegetative
Solutions for
Conservation
Problems



USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

GOLDEN MEADOW PMC TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 29, 2012 was an extremely productive day at the PMC. A diverse group of individuals came together to voice their opinions on where the center needs to focus its attention in the future with regards to plant research and technology. There were many different suggestions from the groups and some included plant species that would benefit wildlife, increased coastal plant species



with emphasis on saline tolerance, native plant species for coastal prairies, and submersed aquatic vegetation research and development. In general, all attendees agreed that more information on plant research and technology should be made electronically available through internet websites and videos in order to share plant information of successes and/or failures.

COASTAL NATIVE AMERICAN WORKSHOP HELD AT GOLDEN MEADOW PMC

Saturday, March 17, 2012 NRCS and other agencies of USDA gathered together to present educational and outreach information to local Native American Tribes. Approximately 45 attendees were present and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, National Agricultural Statistics Service and Bayouland RC&D had representatives present to present information and answer questions regarding how each agency can provide the tribes assistance.



Spring ISSUE 2012

GREEN FACTS

Every plant in Tomorrowland at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA is edible.

Credit - <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/johnston/homehort2/amazingplants.html>

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PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Winter 2012 PMC Veg Quiz:
Narrowleaf mountain mint
(*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.



If you would like more information call us at (985) 475-5280 or visit our web site at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/lapmc>

NRCS EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER GROUPS ASSISTS GOLDEN MEADOW PMC

As spring break is upon us, so are volunteer groups across the nation. Thus far, the PMC has received assistance from four college groups from across the nation. The groups come big and small assisting primarily with PMC plant release propagation.

Students assisted by performing everything from transplanting, to making plant cuttings and ultimately propagating plant material. Other duties may include removing weeds from plots and assembling micro-irrigation systems.



Not only do these volunteers leave intrigued by the plant world, they also take home an understanding of how NRCS "Helps People Help the Land" by conserving our nation's natural resources.



2012 SPRING BURNING BRINGS NEW LIFE

Each spring the Golden Meadow PMC staff uses drip torches to burn off dry matter debris from its foundation plots. Plot burning is beneficial in that it destroys overwintering insects, increases maintenance efficiency and suppresses unwanted weed seeds for the upcoming spring. The photo depicts the burning of Gulf cordgrass (*Spartina spartinae*). The picture to the right depicts the rapid green up of the plant just two weeks after the burn.



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OUTREACH, DONATIONS AND EDUCATION

The Golden Meadow PMC thus far has donated over 200 Overcup oak, American elm, Green ash and Willow oak to local schools and libraries. The center was asked to provide a spokesperson for Career Day at Lower Larose Elementary and each student received a tree with an educational plant guide explaining the importance and benefits of the species. The PMC also educated the children about the importance of plant identification and described differences in poisonous vs. non-poisonous plant species.



The South Lafourche Branch Library and the PMC hosted an Arbor Day 2012 tree give away. Over 100 native Louisiana tree seedlings were grown and maintained at the center and donated to the libraries. The libraries distributed the trees to area children who participated in story time on the morning of April 17, 2012.



Plant Materials Specialist Corner

2012 SEED AND PLANT COLLECTIONS

With spring upon us and many plants in bloom and setting seeds. We need to keep our eyes open for opportunities to collect seeds of plants needed by the Plant Materials Centers. Plant and seed collections are the foundation for future evaluations and the release of new conservation plant varieties. A list of targeted collections, plant collection guides and collection information is located on the Louisiana NRCS Web Site http://www.la.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/PM/collection_list.html

We're on the Web!

www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov